

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2072

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2072.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for two recent rollcall votes. Had I about been present on rollcall vote No. 11, I would have voted "no." On rollcall vote No. 12, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, due to the Chair closing out the vote, a number of Members of the House have not been able to register their vote. Had the Chair not closed it out, I would have voted "no" on the conference report on S. 1124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I was on the elevator over there and a whole group of us that were in the elevator were not able to vote because the vote was closed out.

Had I been here and allowed to vote, I would have voted "aye" on the conference report on S. 1124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I also was on the elevator, detained, did not get to vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on the conference report on S. 1124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was on the elevator when the elevator was stuck. Of course, if I had been here, I would have voted "no" on the conference report on S. 1124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 16, I was unable to cast a timely vote because I was in traffic en route to the capitol. I missed the vote on the Conference Report on Department of Defense Authorization. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—PROTECTING CREDITWORTHINESS OF UNITED STATES, AVOIDING DEFAULT, AND AVERTING ANOTHER GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer a resolution which the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] and I noticed pursuant to rule IX yesterday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Whereas the inability of the House to pass an adjustment in the public debt limit unburdened by the unrelated political agenda of either party, an adjustment to maintain the creditworthiness of the United States and to avoid disruption of interest rates and the financial markets, brings discredit upon the House;

Whereas the inability of the House to pass a clean resolution to continue normal governmental operations so as to end the abuse of American citizens and their hard-earned dollars, Federal employees, private businesses who perform work for the Federal government, and those who rely upon Federal services as a bargaining tactic to gain political advantage in the budget negotiations, brings discredit upon the House;

Whereas previous inaction of the House has already cost the American taxpayer about \$1.5 billion in wasteful government shutdown costs, reduced the productivity and responsiveness of Federal agencies and caused untold human suffering;

Whereas the failure of the House of Representatives to adjust the Federal debt limit and keep the Nation from default or to act on legislation to avert another Government shutdown impairs the dignity of the House, the integrity of its proceedings and the esteem the public holds for the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the enrolling clerk of the House of Representatives shall prepare an engrossment of the bill, H.R. 2862, and the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 157. The vote by which this resolution is adopted by the House shall be deemed to have been a vote in favor of such bill and a vote in favor of such joint resolution upon final passage in the House of Representatives. Upon engrossment of the bill and the joint resolution, each shall be deemed to have passed the House of Representatives and been duly certified and examined; the engrossed copies shall be signed by the Clerk and transmitted to the Senate for further legislative action; and (upon final passage by both Houses) the bill and the joint resolution shall be signed by the presiding officers of both Houses and presented to the President for his signature (and otherwise treated for all purposes) in the manner provided for bills and joint resolutions generally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] wish to be heard on whether the resolution presents a question of privilege under rule IX?

Mr. DOGGETT. Yes, Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I do. I think there are only one or two other speakers that would ask to be heard on this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT].

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this motion raises most directly a question

of privileges of the House. True, the particulars of this motion concern the credit worthiness of the United States, something in which every American has a stake, particularly those with a variable mortgage, a car loan, a credit card balance, or whoever want to take out alone.

But, Mr. Speaker, what could more directly jeopardize the integrity of our proceedings here in the House of Representatives than misconduct, than tampering with the fiscal integrity of the United States?

Those who say we can live with financial anarchy would imperil both the dignity of this House and the hopes of millions of Americans for economic dignity. Indicative of this threat to the integrity of the House is the warning against a politically motivated default by six former Treasury secretaries, both Republicans and Democrats, who have expressed in their words their profound concern about the threat of default.

The very idea that Uncle Sam would tell anyone who holds a Treasury bill or a Treasury bond, sorry, we do not want to pay, is not revolutionary, it is simply lunacy. The full faith and credit of the United States is not anything to be trifled with. If there are Members of this body who are willing to mess up the credit rating of the United States, let them mess up their own credit rating, not that of the American people who they are sworn to serve.

When the Secretary of Treasury, Mr. Rubin, assures us that default is upon us, when he is compelled to undertake extraordinary measures to defer temporarily that default and only faces in return the threat of impeachment in this House, the dignity of this House is jeopardized. When we hear a declaration that "I do not care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 60 days, not this time," the financial integrity of our country and the integrity and esteem with which the public holds this House is severely jeopardized. I refer, of course, to the words of the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH.

This motion and an ability to take up a clean resolution to adjust the debt limit before we run into financial ruin later this month would do something to undo the damage that has already occurred.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Are there other Members who wish to be heard on the question of whether the resolution presents a question of privilege?

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the motion on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is attempting to ascertain whether or not the motion is privileged.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I will withhold my motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is hearing discussion on that at this time.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my motion temporarily.